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The Australian Ballet's education program takes up residency at the Sydney Opera House as part of its year-round Access Program, inspiring the next generation of young dance lovers



For the first time *Out There – The Australian Ballet in schools, brought to you by Samsung* is coming to the Sydney Opera House in partnership with its Access Program, to deliver workshops and performances to children with disabilities. Students between 6 and 14 years will have the chance to learn from professionals when The Australian Ballet's flagship education program visits the Opera House from 22 – 26 August.

Partnering with the Sydney Opera House has enabled The Australian Ballet's *Out There* program to reach schools serving students with disability and offer them a tailored, inclusive workshop experience.

Schools involved in this week long residency include Campbelltown East Public School, Victoria Road Public School, Victoria Avenue Public School, St Edmund's College, Wairoa School, Kanahooka High School, Bass Hill Primary School, Bidwill Primary School, Aspect School, Giant Steps and others.

In its eleventh year, *Out There* offers a fun, engaging introduction to ballet, through a series of workshops and performances which foster **movement skills**, promote **fitness** and encourage curricular **engagement**. Fun and informative, *Out There* is taught by a specially trained Dance Education Ensemble (DEE) from The Australian Ballet and utilises Samsung technology to assist and enhance learning experiences.

Six dance educators will work with students to help develop creative thinking through dance and technology. The week culminates in a shared performance of students and dancers and a brand new schools' version of *The Sleeping Beauty*, performed by the DEE.

In 2016 *Out There* will also offer professional development training for teachers who have access to the brand new **Eduhub** web resources, featuring interviews with creatives, downloadable resources and practical ideas for dance workshops. The program sustains teachers with practical and ongoing training and resources to continue dance education.

Katy McKeown, Senior Education Manager at The Australian Ballet said, "Dance is one of the five performing arts disciplines in the national curriculum and The Australian Ballet's *Out There* program offers students a fun, empowering experience of dance, encouraging physical and social skills through dance learning. Working with Sydney Opera House's Access Program for the first time is incredibly exciting for us. We look forward to building a strong, long-term relationship."

Jenny Spinak, Accessibility Manager at the Sydney Opera House said, "We're thrilled to partner with The Australian Ballet's *Out There* program to provide access to educational arts experiences for people with disabilities. *Out There*'s inclusive format is a great way to enable students to participate and work through their own movement journey, in a fun and welcoming environment. We continually look for new ways to open up the Opera House and make this world-class performing arts centre accessible to all, so it's exciting to be able to bring, *Out There* to students with disability for the first time."

Tess Ariotti, Corporate Social Responsibility Manager at Samsung Electronics Australia said Samsung is delighted to see programs like *Out There* continue to innovate and use technology to enhance education experiences. "Programs like *Out There* play an important role in children's education. *Out There* is a wonderful example of how technology and the arts can come together to offer new learning experiences. We're thrilled to see how, with Samsung's support, the *Out There* program has continued to expand, and is now able to offer its education program to a wider number of schools."

For all media enquiries, please contact: Elise Tobin, Publicist P: 03 9669 2771 M: 0419 375 751

E: eliset@australianballet.com.au or publicity@australianballet.com.au

Over the past decade, *Out There* has given more than 100,000 children across Australia the opportunity to experience dance, with a strong focus on schools and communities in regional areas and outer metropolitan areas. Thanks to the program's Presenting Partner, Samsung Electronics Australia, in 2015, *Out There* travelled to 107 schools around Australia. 2016 is set to exceed that coverage with the introduction of visits to secondary schools.

Robyn Ewing in the Australian Council for Educational Research report, [The Arts and Australian Education: Realising potential](#) makes reference to *Out There*, observing that 'there is considerable evidence that students who engage in music study and/or musical appreciation do perform better academically and on some tests of generic ability.'

The Australian Ballet's Dance Education Ensemble is comprised of Jasmin Dwyer, Jack Gibbs, Chantelle van der Hoek and Timothy Szczepkowski-Collins, supported by Dance Development Manager Hayley Arundel and led by Senior Education Manager Katy McKeown.

For more information visit:

www.australianballet.com.au

www.australianballet.com.au/learning-and-development

Watch: <http://tinyurl.com/TABOutThere>

http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/visit/accessibility_info.aspx

For media enquires relating to the Sydney Opera House's Access program contact: Danielle Edwards, Publicity Coordinator
P: 02 9250 7209 M: 0424548876
E: dwards@sydneyoperahouse.com

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